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# Precision SHOOTING



*a magazine for Shooters by Shooters*

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#### COVER PHOTO

The beautiful chuck territory of Northern New York, where Bill Kappel and Joe Stearns from New Jersey hunted with "Red" and Ruth Boynton. This field yielded over a dozen chucks.

#### A VALUABLE PUBLIC SERVICE

Each Autumn, prior to the opening of the big game hunting seasons, the Phoenix (Arizona) Rod and Gun Club conducts a rifle sighting-in service on several weekends, which serves several hundred hunters each year. Club members donate their time for this work. This program not only provides valuable assistance to the few-days-a-year rifle user, but the modest \$1.00 per gun charged adds a substantial amount of money to the Club treasury each year.

To give a better idea of this program and its value to both the hunting public and the club, we herewith reprint from the Club's fine monthly bulletin, "RICOCHETS," the report of the 1963 program:

#### RESULTS OF 1963 SIGHTING-IN PROGRAM GRATIFYING

The Club is indebted to a lot of people who have helped to make this year's Sighting-In Program a success; those members who donated their time to come to the Range and shoot, adjust, and zero-in rifles; members who spent a day or more at the Range, registering names, taking care of the pop concession, or relaying orders by phone to the pit crew; and those who distributed poster and advertised our Program by word of mouth. The Club has received a lot of very fine publicity in local newspapers and sports magazines, and this has no doubt contributed immeasurably to the success of the Program. The Club obviously has many friends among the local merchants, too, for they have displayed our posters, believing as we do, that they are promoting a public service.

To date, nearly 900 rifles have gone through the sighting-in process at our Range. The weapon which needed little or no adjustment was so rare as to arouse comment. The majority of weapons required a great deal of adjusting before they would shoot in the V-ring from a bench rest. Many needed a great deal of adjusting before they would even shoot on target! Refunds were given to 24 owners of guns which could not be sighted in without gunsmithing. One man was given a refund four times before he finally bought another weapon, which was successfully adjusted on his fifth trip to the Range. Some people brought the wrong kind of ammunition, others had a mixture of loads. On at least one occasion, the alertness of a safety-conscious member prevented a potentially serious accident. He found a bullet lodged in the barrel of a rifle. If the owner had not had this service, and had attempted to fire the gun in the field, serious injury and even death might have resulted.

Observing this sort of thing, a person is soon convinced that most of these people would not stand a chance of getting game without this service, and some are in actual

danger. Few seem to know anything at all about their weapons, and could not sight them in for themselves, even if there were a safe place for them to do so.

Many people expressed appreciation, others showed it by their pleased expressions. One man refused to take a refund, as he said it was worth \$1 to him to learn that his gun would not shoot. Some were obviously unhappy because they were unable to shoot dead center as had the Club member . . . but at least they received some tips on developing a sight picture and how to "squeeeeze that trigger" which should increase their chances of hunting success.

By the end of our Program, the number of weapons rendered safe and accurate will probably exceed the 1000 mark. In each instance, the intention of "increasing hunter success and safety" will have been fulfilled. This is gratifying!

Besides rendering a public service to the people of Phoenix and vicinity, the members who DONATED all their time and effort deserve a big vote of appreciation from the Club, for all revenue from the Program goes into the Club Treasury. Expenses are confined to range operation and publicity.

(At this time, the P. S. Editor congratulates the RICOCHETS Editor on the improvement of the bulletin and its increased and better news coverage of Club activities during the past year or so. Even this far away, I like to read it each month.)

#### MORE ABOUT POWDER DISINTEGRATION

I have just read the article in the September issue by Loyal K. Wilson, M. D., about the storage and disintegration of powder.

I have had as much as three or four hundred pounds of powder in storage at one time. I have run into disintegration only when it is stored in metal cans. When it is stored in this manner after about two years, it starts to rust the sides of the cans, causing a brown rust dust to form. I noticed this during my periodic powder checks and decided to transfer it to plastic containers. I have had no trouble since then.

The powder I am referring to is now approximately six years old. One lot had been stored in the dark at a temperature of about sixty to one hundred degrees. When I used this six-year old powder recently, it gave me a group of less than one inch by one-half inch at one hundred yards.

I read another article recently regarding storage of powder which described similar disintegration symptoms and also stated that the brown rust was highly toxic and gave warning that it could be lethal.

4831 also rusts or corrodes the cans the same as 4895 but not as rapidly. My opinion is that very slight moisture condensation changes the chemical structure of the powder, causing it to deteriorate from the outside in. I have checked other cans of powder, and I have not run across any other kinds except these two that act in this manner.

I have had H-380 stored in cans for approximately five years without any signs of rust forming on the inside of the cans. At the present time I have well over one hundred pounds of powder stored in both plastic and metal containers. Some of it is at least fifteen years old and shows no sign of deterioration.

A shooter that does a lot of shooting has many rifles which like a herd of horses burn up lots of fodder. So it is necessary to be aware of the storage and handling of large quantities of powder.

Conrad James Fulton  
Sherman Oaks, California

#### A TOUGH SEASON

(Except from a recent letter from  
Jesse M. Grigg.)

Last weekend I fired the last tournament (smallbore) of the year, and by winning the 50 meter on International target

collected the only award which I have earned in 1963. Conditions have been unusually tough owing to less wind and more mirage than in any year which I can remember.

As to comparative effects of these two extremes on my scores, there were two days in recent years which still stand out in my memory. The first was a day of 20-30 mile wind when I lost 56 points. The other, only two weeks past, was a day of almost no wind when I lost 47 points. On this day of no wind the scores in general were such that in the middle of the second match one of the top shooters borrowed for herself another rifle, believing that her own had gone haywire. She did no better with the borrowed rifle; and next day, by firing the only 400 in a 50 meter with her own rifle, proved that not rifle but conditions had been the trouble. Since that bad day it has seemed to me that, for prone shooting, there should be at least enough wind to keep the radiated heat at the ground well scrambled. Maybe a wind just below the velocity at which it would disturb the aim would be best, if it did not switch.

#### TOO FAST?

At one of the weekly shoots (Sunday) each month of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, (Calif.) member Harry Jackman chronographs rifle and handgun loads for members. For the October session, as reported in the Club's interesting NEWS LETTER for November, one item seems of unusual interest. The chronograph report went:

Model 70-25/.300 wildcat-30" barrel-12" twist (Bob Rowland). Load, 70 grs. 4831, 75 gr. bullet. Velocity of three loads 4115, 4082, 4082 f.p.s.

Jackman added this footnote: "This looks like a .300 H&H case shortened and necked to .25. Bob says he has been playing with it for some time, and has tried several barrels, finally coming to this 12" twist, which has given best results. He also says it is the poorest killer he has ever shot—a coyote shot clear through both shoulders ran about 400 yards, and out of ten jacks only one didn't run 50 yards or more after being hit. Perhaps it's possible to get a bullet going **too** fast, so that it slips through like a needle and doesn't have time to create the much touted hydrostatic shock that Weatherby has been talking about all these years."

Test of another caliber that same day might be of interest. The test report went: 94 Winchester-20" barrel-.30-30 (Gordon Fleisher). Handload of 35.5 grs. 4064 and 150 gr. bullet. Velocity—2421, 2398, 2433. Winchester factory 170 gr. bullet load; velocity 2004, 1996, 2045.

The velocity for that handload is approximately 100 f.p.s. more than is listed for a similar handload in both the Lyman and Speer manuals. The Winchester velocity figure for their 170 gr. bullet load is 2220 f.p.s. By comparison, the handload tested seems to be quite a potent one for the .30-30. We of course do not know what the pressures might be, but the velocity readings were certainly quite uniform. We do not know what instrument Jackman uses for his chronographing.

P. H. T.

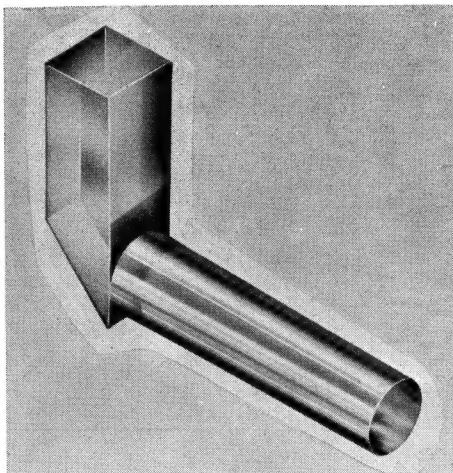
#### WON'T BE STOPPED

By Allyn H. Tedmon

If you were near three score and ten as for age, and had survived three heart attacks and suffered from diabetes, it is very doubtful if you would have even attended the Regional held in Clovis, New Mexico in June. However such slight handicaps as these bluffed A. J. Sharpnack, from Pueblo, Colorado, not at all. Fact is he had won the Regional back in 1946 at Denver, so the harder it rained, and the wilder the wind got, the wetter he became. His new straw hat was a sponge, his rain coat was soaked, as was his 10X mat and his pants from belt



A. J. Sharpnack



The SAFE-SITE



The SAFE-SITE in use

#### NEW SAFE-SITE BORE SCOPE

Here is a new item for the gun enthusiast that engineers said couldn't be made! It took five years of research and the ignoring of a host of diemakers and molders to produce the new, Safe-Site bore scope that lets the gun enthusiast inspect the inside of the gun barrel with safety and with a new view of clarity. With the Safe-Site in the gun chamber, a sharp view of the interior is available from either end of the barrel. In the chamber, it acts the same as a periscope on a submarine. It also conducts light into the chamber so that the gun can be viewed equally well through the muzzle. The Safe-Site serves two purposes. First, it enables the gun owner to inspect his rifle or shot-gun for dangerous obstructions. Secondly, it fits snugly into the barrel and acts as a plug to prevent a shooting accident. It is impossible to insert a Safe-Site into a loaded weapon. This enables the hunter to make a quick, safe inspection of his rifle out in the field. This invention, that couldn't be done, is now being successfully mass produced for the Safe-Site Company, Inc. of Bay City, Michigan, by the Electric Autolite Co., plastics division. Co-operating in the break-through in production of prisms out of plastic was DuPont Corporation. The Safe-Site sells for about \$2.00 and comes in a handy, plastic pocket case. It is made of optical grade, high impact plastic. Dealers, too, will find them valuable for the inspection of barrels for pits, scratches and rust.

(Editor's comment: I have use-tested the SAFE-SITE and consider it to be a practical, useful little accessory. In its plastic case it takes less room in a shirt pocket than a package of cigarettes. The sample I have tested fits chambers for cart-

(Continued on Page Nineteen)

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I certify that the statements made by  
me above are correct and complete.

P. H. Teachout, Editor

# WHAT LEADING INTERNATIONAL SHOOTERS USE

	Type of shoe	Offhand cant	Wear glasses	Uncorrected vision	Front sight	Smallbore rifle	Smallbore ammo	Bigbore rifle*	Bigbore load**
Anderson	Ski	25°	No	20/15	2m/m post	Anschutz	RWS	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Wright	Ski	5°	Yes	20/50	.150 aperture	Hammerli	Rem.	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Krilling	GI boot	0	No	20/15	2m/m post	Anschutz	Rem.	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Bertva	GI	30°	Yes	20/100	.140 aperture	Remington	Mk III	Remington	42.5 gr. 4895
Wigger	GI	10°	No	20/20	.150 aperture	Remington	Rem.	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Gunnarsson	GI	20°	Yes	Astigmatism	.150 aperture	Anschutz	RWS	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Davis	GI	5°	Yes	20/40	2m/m post	Anschutz	Mk III	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Banks	GI	10°	Yes	20/35	.145 aperture	Anschutz	Rem.	Remington	39 gr. 3031
Foster	Ski	20°	No	20/20	.155 aperture	Anschutz	RWS	Swedish	39 gr. 3031
Caygle	GI	10°	Yes	Near sighted	.140 aperture	BSA	Mk III	Custom	41 gr. 3031
				*-all bigbore rifles are .308 caliber				Remington	42.5 gr. 4895
				**-bullet used by all was the Sierra 168 gr.					

At the Pan-American Games Rifle Team tryout in Texas last January, John Foster made a survey of equipment, accessories and methods used by the shooters. The tabulation of this information for the top-ten ranking shooters appears herewith.

Since those participating in these tryouts were from the top ranks of International course in the United States, it is believed that this information is representative of today's trends.

John Foster further comments: "You will note that all the shooters (the top 10 are listed) used some kind of boot to attain more ankle support. Also, contrary to what most instructors today teach, all but one of the shooters used a cant in the standing position. It has no effect on accuracy and allows the shooter to attain a much better head position.

Many people plead poor eyesight as the reason for not shooting iron sights, however, as you can see, about half of our best free rifle shooters wear glasses and they are competing on the toughest rifle course in the world. Also notice how many use a post front sight. In this country it is usually connected only with military shooting. But its use is becoming more popular with our International shooters. Those that use an aperture front sight use one that is larger than commercially available. The largest Redfield International I have found is a .140, so most use a drilled out Redfield Olympic metallic aperture.

"The RWS ammo used was the R50 match ammo and since it is in scarce supply (for the real good stuff) it is usually brought out for such important matches as an International tryout.

"I hope this chart will answer some of the questions people have about International shooting. I don't think many realized how many shooters used so much cant, and also how poor the eyesight is of our top iron sight shooters. I think this might shoot down a few excuses."

## WOODCHUCKS BY THE HUNDREDS

by Joe Stearns

We were in the beautiful farming country of Northern New York State. The evening sun was casting long shadows across the rolling hills and woodlots, and the air was deathly still and clear. In the distance a herd of cattle grazed peacefully; and we could easily hear the plaintive moo-oo-oo of a straggler.

We could also hear "Red" Boynton, our friend and guide, quietly mumbling,

"I see 3, I see 4, I see 5, - 6, - 7, (etc.)". He was glassing the alfalfa fields out to 500 yds. below, and counting the ubiquitous woodchuck population.

Bill Kappel and I were guests of this man whose principal hobby is chuck hunting — Harold "Red" Boynton.

We first met Red at the Bench Rest Matches at Johnstown in 1961. He had driven down with his attractive little wife Ruth mainly through curiosity, but also for the purpose of discussing the latest techniques of bullet making and reloading with various shooters.

During our conversation at that time, he soon got around to the subject of chuck



All set to go. (Left to right) Bill Kappel, Red Boynton, Ruth Boynton and Joe Stearns.

hunting—with casual remarks about shooting five or six hundred every summer. Bill and I glanced at each other with raised eyebrows, and a—"what kind of a nut do we have here"—skepticism. But he seemed too sincere to be ignored and our acquaintance led first to correspondence, then to a firm invitation to come up from South Jersey and hunt.

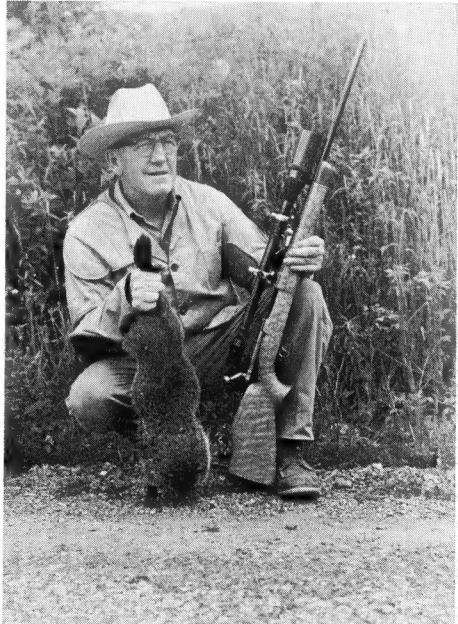
I'll admit that both Bill and I took a rather dim view of the whole proposition at first.

"If what Red says is true," Bill remarked, "then he must have all the chucks cleaned out of that country."

Man! Were we ever surprised. There were just as many chucks as Red claimed, and then some. And the better we got to know Red, the more we admired him as a true sportsman and conservationist. He took the attitude that every chuck in that country was his personal property, and the chuck management system which he advocated and preached would keep the farmers satisfied and still afford great hunting, year after year.

His plan, briefly was this: (1) Never shoot chucks in the spring while the females are nursing their young. (2) Never shoot a chuck at close range (up to 100 Yds.) ("kid stuff"). (3) Let all the roadside chucks live (they are breeders for next year). (4) Persuade the farmers who have several hundred chucks on their property not to gas or poison them, as many insist on doing. (5) Shoot the alfalfa and clover chucks, which the farmers dislike, in preference to all others.

This in essence is Red's 5 point management plan. And it seems to work out very well. Along with this, he makes it a point to cultivate the friendship of every farmer, so that when they see him, or hear his deadly accurate .22-250 or .219, they won't worry about a dead cow or their children's puppy.



The redoubtable Red and his pet .22-250.

By way of illustration, we were hunting in a valley full of lush alfalfa one afternoon. "Crack," went the varmint rifle and a voice screamed out from a nearby hayfield,

"Who the hell's doin' that shootin'?"

"Red Boynton," we replied.

"OK Red, go ahead," the voice responded, "just wanted to make sure it wasn't some of them damn idiots I catch up here who hang their dead chucks on my fences."

We looked at Red, inquiringly. He smiled and said,

"These farmers don't mind you leaving dead chucks on the ground, but some of these clowns seem to take delight in hanging the carcasses over the top of a fence post or draped over the barbed wire. What happens is they draw blow flies and stink up the neighborhood. If you leave them on the ground, they're usually gone the next day. Skunks, 'possums', coons, hawks, crows, and foxes all like chuck meat. By golly, I sometimes think that the dead chucks that fill up the bellies of these other varmints actually save the killing of lots of our pheasants and rabbits. They gotta eat too, you know. I mean the skunks an' foxes. They love baby rabbits and pheasants, but if they're plumb full of chuck meat, they probably go back in their dens and sleep it off instead of hunting all night."

"Sounds logical," I said.

"What about these foxes?" Bill queried, "do you ever get a shot at them while you're chuck hunting?"

"Oh, yes, occasionally. Ruth killed two last summer; but they come out most of the time at night. Plenty of them around here though."

Ruth Boynton, by the way, is one of the best woman rifle shots I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. She hunted with us on the 4th of July and clobbered nine chucks that day with her pet .222 Sako, shooting most of the time with nothing more than a fence post top to rest the gun, and frequently at ranges of 200 yds. or better. Using Red's own 55 grain bullets, her load was 20 grs. of 4198.

It was Red who took the honors for the longest shot, however. We had been shooting from a high hilltop across a broad valley into a pasture on the opposite hill. We used Red's notched plywood rifle rest and a sandbag under the heel of the stock. The place was lousy with chucks and the wind from about 10 o'clock was 11 to 14 MPH, according to Bill's wind measuring instrument.

In about a half hour, taking turns shooting, (which we always did), we had killed about 7 and missed about the same number. The range was 350 to 400 yds. Finally, Bill (who loved to needle Red) said,

"I see one for you Red," and he located it for him through the scope. It was on top of the opposite hill.

Red mumbled some words about Bill that have to be censored, nevertheless, he got down, quickly doped the range and wind, and damned if he didn't wallop that chuck! It turned out to be 510 yds. . . For a .22-250 that was quite remarkable. His scope was a Unertl 15X. Load was 33½ grs. of H-380.

Unlike bench rest target shooting, chucks present an entirely different problem. Each shot is at a different range and invariably under different conditions. Many of our shots—probably 25% of them—were at heads only. In other words, through the glasses we could spot chucks that only had their heads out of the hole; and these shots were never passed up. While one of us shot, the rest would watch through our 10X binoculars. If there was any doubt about hitting the chuck, one of us would walk out to verify. This did not happen often.

There is a different sound when a bullet hits an animal. "Plop" is not the word, but it's something like that. I remember this sound quite vividly from experiences on the plains of Africa. Even on an animal as small as a Thompson Gazelle, I recall the sound of a solid hit out 350 yds. or more. On zebra, wildebeest, or something larger, the "plop" would have a deeper tone—like hitting a base drum, in contrast with the higher pitched "spat" or "plick" of a long range hit on a Tommy. On a woodchuck, it is similar. On short range shots, you don't hear it because the report of the rifle and the hit of the bullet are too close together, but on a very quiet day, on the long shots it is a discernible sound.

Chuck hunters frequently make some wild guesses about the size of their victims.



Red, counting chucks.



Red's shooting position, with Ruth spotting a typical 300 yard shot.

I have read about 22 lb. chucks, but I have to weigh one like that before I'd believe it. We had accurate scales with us and weighed at least 25 of the largest chucks shot. The average was about 8½ lbs. and the largest one retrieved was 10½ lbs. Lengths ranged from 22" to 26" for the adult males, 2 yrs. or older.

Red said that by late fall, when they were fattened up and ready for hibernation, they would be about 2 lbs. heavier. This would mean the largest chucks would run 12½ to possibly 13 lbs. maximum.

We have heard farmers claim that a chuck will consume a ton of alfalfa or clover each year. The tendency toward exaggeration again becomes apparent here. If a chuck feeds 8 months out of twelve, this would be about 240 days. The entire stomach and digestive tract of a mature chuck will hold not over 1 lb. So even if the chuck emptied and filled itself 3 times daily, this would amount to 720 lbs. per year. However, if a farm had a chuck population of 100, this would mean 72,000 lbs. or 36 tons of hay (green wt.) that would never reach the barn. Most farmers, however, become more annoyed by the chucks' habit of digging so many big holes in the fields. Cows and horses have broken their legs in these holes on many farms. So it is not too difficult to obtain permission to shoot them.

Last year, Red told us, he and his son Phil stopped in a farmer's lane and asked permission to hunt on his property. Noting a tire that was getting flat Red asked the farmer if he had a pump. The farmer said,



The average size adult chucks weighed about 8½ lbs.

"I'll do better than that, if you'll kill some chucks I'll fix your tire while you're out."

And surprisingly enough he did. This year while we were shooting in

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Bill with his Shilen .222½. He seldom missed.

### Woodchucks By The Hundreds

(Continued from Page Five)

a clover field, we heard a woman's voice about 200 yds. away shouting,

"Hey you fellows!"

"Oh—oh," said Bill, "Here's where we get told off." But we answered,

"Hello!" and the woman surprised us with what she had to say.

"When you get through shooting over there, please come over here and kill some. There're three in my garden right now and lots more in our pasture. They're about to eat us out of house and home!"

"Well, how do you like that?" said Red, laughing.

Needless to say, we obliged. Bill, Red, and I clobbered three chucks in as many minutes, shooting right from the front lawn of the woman's farmhouse. She was delighted.

It was Bill who registered the highest percentage of kills vs. misses. Out of 61 shots, he killed 40, which is about 65% hits. Red shot at 59 and killed 35 for a 59% average, while your scribe shot at 61 and only connected with 34 or 56%. But I can take some solace by the fact that my scope was only 8 power and my rifle a sporter wt. class 6 MM Int. I used some of Crawf Hollidge's 73.5 grain bullets, part of the time and some of Dan Hufnail's 72 grain the rest of the time. Both performed very well. My load was 32.4 grs. of Ball C with Win. primers. Bill used a .22-250 until one particular shot which we all remembered. It was the evening of our first day out—July 4th. He shot at a chuck about 300 yds. away. It was a real loud ear splitting crack, and the chuck fell dead instantly. But the rifle bolt could not be raised. We waited until we returned to Red's shop that night and finally tapped it open. I've never seen a primer pocket so badly enlarged. Bill's load was 35½ grs. of 3031 but he must have exceeded it in this one cartridge. Anyway he used his Shilen heavy varmint class 222½ the next two days. This gun was deadly up to about 350 yds. when the wind was not too strong.

Speaking of long range shots at woodchucks, I recall reading an article about a year or so ago in one of the sporting magazines in which the writer described some phenomenal shooting. As I recall, the man credited with it was using a .243 wildcat of some kind, with heavy barrel and high power scope. He could, according to the author, kill chucks quite regularly up to 1,000 yds. Now that I would have to see.

Even the flattest shooting rifle has a tremendous bullet drop between 600 and 1,000 yds. and chucks don't carry signs saying, "I'm 732 yards away old buddy." You have to estimate the range, or carry a big artillery range finder. These are not easy to use either. I had one. Just try and find the chuck through the eyepiece. It takes a lot of patience and skill, and it doesn't do well. But let's say we do know the range. What good does it do un-

less we know how much the bullet will drop between the range we are zeroed in for, and the target out beyond.

With my 6 MM sighted in at 200 yds., I find that the bullet drops about 7 inches below at 300 yds. and around 16 inches at 400. Beyond that distance I don't attempt a shot.

Red Boynton has been killing chucks with a 22-250 for many years. He has, from experience, acquired a high degree of skill in finding chucks in terrain that many varmint hunters would swear contained nothing. Also his range estimating ability must be admitted exceptional. He keeps his rifle sighted in at 250 yds. and uses a Unertl 15X, 2" objective lens scope. Since two people can't look through a rifle scope at the same time, we never knew how he positioned the crosshairs on the various long range shots.

As every bench rest shooter knows, there are times when "lady luck" smiles on us and other times when she looks the other way. I'm thinking now of doping a condition change. How many times have we heard the forlorn remark, "I held an inch to the left and that's exactly where it went!" or, "I should have dropped down on my sighter."

On woodchucks, the first shot is for record. We found, however, that on the longer shots, if we missed the first time then quite often the puzzled rodent would sit there until he was either "plastered," or showered with a cloud of dirt. The latter kind of shot would always send him scampering into a hole.

Bill and I can hardly wait till we join Red on another hunt. Meanwhile, we have both ordered new heavy rifle barrels; this time .2506. Maybe next time we can reach out to 500 yds. plus. We're anxious to see.

### FORSTER-APPELT HANDGUN SLING By Kent Bellah

Forster-Appelt Mfg. Co., Lanark, Illinois, who make the Forster Precision Case Trimmer that is the most versatile and unexcelled, have introduced a new handgun sling. It adds extra support to the weapon for longer range precision accuracy. The sling, patent No. 2,985,980, works beautifully with any type of handgun, using iron sights, a handgun scope with long eye relief, or a more powerful rifle scope. Kenneth Shackelford is pictured demonstrating how it permits a steadier hold for better shooting. It's a clever idea indeed.

Several years ago Mr. John Appelt designed a handgun sling that attached to a swivel in the gun butt. It was good, and improved accuracy. My article on it was in this magazine. It was much inferior to this new design, as the pull on the gun, that could vary from shot to shot, caused some variation in the center of impact. This one is simplified and much better.

We compared the old type with the new one, and groups are certainly better with the improved model. To use it, put

the large loop around your neck. When you are ready to shoot, put your right thumb in the small loop, and grip your gun in the usual manner, using a two-hand hold if desired, or one hand if you prefer. The two-hand hold is steadier, of course. If you are a southpaw, put your left thumb in the small loop. It works equally well either way with any gun.

The sling adjusts to your requirements, and you can put it in use instantly. You'll generally want it adjusted so your gun hand is very nearly completely extended. Put a little pressure on the sling to insure a steady hold. You can increase or decrease pressure nicely by moving your head back or forward a bit. I like it fairly tight, but not enough to be tiresome. Shoot a few groups and you'll soon determine just how tight you want it.

When you are walking, it's real comfortable to carry your right thumb (if you are right handed) in the small loop. Your gun can be carried in the left hand, holding it around the cylinder. If a jackrabbit gets up and starts a fast get-away, hand your gun butt to your right hand, swing on target and start the cylinder rolling. If you've been making wild shots on running game with a short tube (and that's mighty easy to do,) you'll decide you are a much better shooter before day's end!

No doubt Mr. Appelt designed the sling for better accuracy on targets and sitting game. It surely works for that. It works even better on running game and varmints, as I accidentally discovered. I've used both one and two-hand holds to shoot running jacks and varmints since I was a kid in grade school, a good revolver being my first love in guns, which it still is. Many a time I've shot the cylinder dry when varmints got up a bit far away. This sling would have saved a car load of ammunition, and I'd have bagged more game.

A two-hand hold might be compared with a table that has two legs. Add a third leg and it stands steady. You won't be steady as a table, but the improvement will be great.

Don't expect to master a handgun sling the first day. You'll have to practice with it, and that's fun. Keep both arms as straight as possible with the sling tight. Pretend your arms and sling are steel rails welded to the gun. Don't attempt to get on target by bending an elbow, as you'll want to do before you learn better. When a varmint jumps, take only a fraction of a second to assume a steady shooting position with your feet fairly well apart, as you grip the gun tightly and get the sights aligned on target FAST.

Running handgun game is mostly bagged at fairly short range, which you can extend with practice. Learning to get on target FAST and dropping the hammer immediately (without jerking) is the secret. Learn your own technique. I try to swing a bit faster than the game, continuing the swing after firing as a good sight picture passes the game. This works best for me, and the gun is in good position for additional shots, generally double-action except when the range and odds are long.

Fast gun handling is more important than fine accuracy for short and moderate range running game. Many riflemen who are good slow shooters are poor gun handlers. They want precision accuracy, and wouldn't be caught dead with a 30/30 Winchester. The Model 94 isn't my favorite either. But a guy who can handle one can bust a running jack while an average rifleman is thinking about it. Same deal with any rifled tube, long or short.

Jockeys put cars in a parking lot slot with more speed and precision than most drivers can do it. Despite jokes about it, they skin very few Detroit Monsters, (except your brand new one). You can learn to handle guns, or cars, if you practice. Getting too frisky with cars will run up a terrific fender repair bill, but efficient gun handling is a worthwhile accomplishment.



**Kenneth Shackelford** demonstrates the new Forster-Appelt Handgun Sling, that steadies all handguns.

The pistol pictured is Remington's XP-100 (stamped FIREBALL on the barrel) for the .221 Fire Ball cartridge, that we told you about in last April's issue. It's designed for one well placed hit at long range. The scope is Bushnell's 1.3X Phantom with 6" to 23" eye relief. With a sling it's sporty for running varmints, as is Ruger's .256 Magnum. An auto loading action would bag more running critters, but 6 shots are not 6 times more effective. You feel you've accomplished something when you clobber a running varmint with one shot.

Most running game will continue to be shot with an iron sighted revolver for bigger bags. Many handgunners don't believe a sling is any advantage until they use it a good while. Converts have given it a fair trial rather than a short practice session. Anything that steadies a gun is an advantage, if you master it.

One handgunner shoots a good many running jacks that get up nearly under foot. He uses a two hand hold with both elbows tight against the body, gunfighter style, with the gun close to his body. In a crouch the gun is too low to see the sights. His technique doesn't work for me very well, as I value a sight picture highly, even if it isn't good as I'd like. He's fast, and beats me on the close, close shots. I beat him at longer range. The sling will be a terrific advantage on running or still deer. These should never be shot with anything less than Remington's new Soft Point .357 Magnum cartridge, and the .44 Magnum with any factory cartridge is much superior. Hot handloads are still better, of course. Try the sling a while and you'll love it for moving or still targets!

## Random Shots

By Betty Summerall Duncan

Competition rose to a crescendo peak as National Champ 1/Lt. Lones W. Wigger, Jr., USAR, and runner-up in the Nationals, M/Sgt. Edward E. Caygle, Jr., USAF Int'l Team, tangled head-on at the Floating Western Wildcats 6400-Point Smallbore Prone Tournament Oct. 3-6 in Houston, Texas. All hands cooperated to make this tournament a smooth operation, including the aerologist, who provided ideal autumn weather to compensate for last fall's tournament where everything was in danger of floating away except the concrete firing line. With temperatures in the low eighties, moderate winds, and sufficient mirage thrown in to keep things interesting, the outcome was a galaxy of new National Records—15 in all, in addition to one tied ("equalized," as they say in Int'l circles).

With only a few weeks in which to

whip plans for this tournament into shape, Inez and Raymond Sargent and the members of the Bayou Rifles Smallbore Division, who backed them up, deserve a Texas-style "well done." The entry was relatively small, but dynamic, and represented a wide geographic radius. Hank Benson drove from Salmon, Idaho, with Wigger from Carter, Montana, as his passenger. Herb Hollister, Creed Page, and Al Sharpnack traveled from Colorado. Marianne Driver arrived from Michigan and fired the last two days. Ruth McFaddin and William Lee came from Custer, S. D., Bruce Jorgensen, from Minot, N. D., Marine Lyle Hassen from Santa Ana, Calif., and Lynn Roberson from McAlester, Oklahoma. Total number of competitors was 74, with several from Louisiana, two from Ft. Benning, Georgia, and the remainder from Texas.

The opening matches of a tournament are comparable to the beginning of a novel—one searches for a clue to the conclusion. On Thursday, Oct. 3rd, Herb Hollister Creedmoored, Lynn Roberson's 400-35X at 50-yds. metallic. To even things up, Lynn Creedmoored Herb at 50-meters metallic, scoring 399-32X. It seems like old times to find these two "neck-and-neck," and it's awfully good to note Lynn's return to active shooting . . . Wigger began warming up by cleaning the Dewar any, with a 27 X count. High Civilian with 399-32X was Bob Smith, of Dallas, 1958 National Benchrest Champion. . . . Ed Caygle's 400-23X accounted for the only possible at 100-yds. any. Wigger's 399-27X was High Service, and Lynn Roberson topped the Civilians with 398-22X.

**Thursday Aggregate Winners:** Caygle—1598-110X; Wigger—1597-113X; Henry Benson—1595-107X; Lynn Roberson—1593-117X; Herb Hollister—1595-115X.

In pre-tournament practice, Herb Hollister tried out a 10-X leather coat, belonging to one of the USAF shooters, with such success that his 5-shot group at 100-yds. metallic could be covered by a dime. He jumped to his feet and sent Harlon Carter driving madly to the nearest phone to direct Raymond Sargent to rush him out a size 44 10-X leather coat. Unfortunately for Herb, there wasn't a size 44 in stock, so he had to resort to wearing his cloth coat.

Lt. Marlin R. Scarborough, USA MTU, who had one bad match the first day, regained his cadence on Friday and claimed the 100-yd. metallic with a 399-30X over Caygle's 399-26X and George Whittington's 399-22X. Scoring 400-33X in the Dewar metallic, he not only led Hollister's 400-30X, but tied Allan Hannon's National Service Records as well. . . . 400-36Xs took first and second in the 50-yds. any, with Hollister winning the toss over Bob Smith. (This

bench rest shooter can really shoot scope.) A pair of 400-34X scores followed, turned in by Lynn Roberson and S/Sgt. Charles L. Madden, USAF Int'l Team . . . Hollister poured in 35Xs to win at 50-meters any, as Major Robert B. Findley, of Biggs AFB, came through for the Service with 400-28X. High Civilian Lynn Roberson, who also totaled 400-28X, had recovered somewhat from a touch of the flu which took its toll on his first three targets that day as 13 points went down the drain between intermittent periods of rapid fire on the line and quick trips to the men's room.

Scarborough maintained his pace throughout the day and led in Friday's Agg., 1598-120X to 1598-110X over Wigger. Next in line were Whittington—1597-122X, Hollister—1596-124X, and Caygle—1594-115X.

Scoring 3195-223X, Wigger took the Thurs.-Fri. Agg., followed by Caygle—3192-225X, Hollister—3189-239X, Scarborough—3187-223X, and Benson 3187-211X. The Thurs.-Fri. Metallic Agg. went to Caygle for his 1597-111X, with Wigger trailing—1597-107X. Scarborough posted 1596-124X; Hollister, 1595-118X; and Benson, 1594-104X. . . . Wigger was at the top of the Thurs.-Fri. Any Sight Agg. with a 1598-116X. Bob Smith's 1595-115X bettered Ed Caygle's score by an X. Hollister and Lynn Roberson had 1594-121X and 1594-112X, respectively.

The metallic 2-man team match on the 100-meter reduced target went to Caygle and Madden, whose 793-51X constituted a new National Service Record. Wigger and Bob Smith placed second with 792-46X . . . The 2-man and 4-man team matches being fired concurrently gave the USAF Blue Team a sizeable lead as they set a National Service Record of 1585-92X. Team members were Caygle, Madden, A/1 Raymond Lewis, and A/3 Melvin Bonebrake . . . With a 979-70X at 50-meters metallic, Caygle and Madden rang up another Service Record. Caygle—399-38X; Madden—398-32X . . . In the 4-man team 50-meter metallic, the Ft. Hood "Gold" Team annexed a National Service Record. The team of Davis, Denton, Panzer, and Bierbasz fired 1589-84X, beating out the Air Force's 1587-118X.

Individual winners on Saturday, Oct. 5th, were as follows: 50-yds. iron—Wigger—400-35X; Caygle—400-33X; Lewis—400-31X; Benson—400-31X . . . 50-meters iron—Whittington—400-30X; Charles Eustace (Expert), Ft. Benning—400-27X; Benson—399-31X; Madden—399-28X . . . Dewar any—Wigger—400-30X; Lynn Roberson—400-29X; Caygle—400-29X; Benson—400-28X. . . . 100-yds. any—Expert James Dartez, Orange, Tex.—400-23X; Wigger—399-29X; Benson—399-28X; Lynn Roberson—399-26X; Lee—399-26X.

Hank Benson easily maneuvered into top spot in Saturday's Agg. with his 1598-118X score. According to the photo, he was shooting a BSA, about which we'll have more data soon (when I talk with him tomorrow). Caygle, with 1595-117X, came closer to Henry than any of the others did, but Lynn Roberson's 1595-111X wasn't far behind. Then, Hollister with 1594-124X and Wigger, 1593-122X.

On Sunday, the 100-yd. metallic fell to Wigger's 400-30X, edging Lewis' 400-25X, Whittington and Bundy's 400-24X, and Lynn Roberson's 400-23X . . . True to form, Whittington was bearing down on the final day as he produced the only clean score in the Dewar metallic, shutting out Benson and Caygle's 399-28Xs, and Scarborough's 399-21X . . . At 50-yds. any, Whit really had things his way as he was out in front with 400-38X. Runners-up were Benson and Marianne Driver, tallying 400-37X, Wigger and Hollister with 36Xs . . . Benson can always be depended on at 50-meters any, and this time he won with a possible and 34Xs. Hollister had 31, Wigger dropped a point with 33, and Scarborough was down 2 with 34Xs. Had Caygle not

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## Random Shots

(Continued from Page Seven)

stumped his toes and lost 2 points, this Floating Western Wildcats Tournament would have had a different ending. But, that's the way these things are determined!

Scanning the Aggregates—The Sunday Agg. was Whittington's by virtue of his 1598-117X. Place winners were Wigger—1596-128X, Caygle—1596-124X, Benson—1596-123X . . . Benson claimed the Sat.-Sun. Agg.—3194-241X, leading Caygle's 3191-241X, Whittington's 3190-237X, Wigger's 3189-250X, and Hollister's 3189-242X. . . . Whittington's winning Sat.-Sun. Metallic Agg. was 1598-115X. Caygle, Benson, and Scarborough followed with 1595's . . . With 1599-127X, Benson also picked up the Sat.-Sun. Any Sight Agg. Wigger scored 1598-128X; Hollister, 1596-120X; Caygle, 1596-115X; Lynn Roberson, 1594-112X.

Ed Caygle established a new National Service Record with his 3192-237X Metallic Sights Championship win. Close behind were Scarborough with 3191-236X, Whittington with 3191-222X, Benson with 3189-218X, and Hollister, 3188-230X . . . In accumulating a 3196-244X Any Sight Championship total, Lones Wigger wiped out Vic Auer's National Service Record. Benson's 3192-234X placed second, ahead of Caygle's 3191-229X, and Hollister's 3190-251X.

Reaching the climax—the Grand Aggregate, the two top guns were so evenly matched that someone called it a "Battle of the Giants." National Smallbore Prone and Position Champion LONES W. WIGGER, JR. has added another link on his championship chain. In doing so, he collected another National Reserve Record with his commendable 6384-473X aggregate. The second giant, Caygle, not only received the consolation prize for his 6383-466X score, but earned title to a new National Service Record.

Once again Hank Benson was the power behind the crown as he unselfishly placed his championship-winning Kenyon-triggered Douglas-52C at Wigger's disposal. Lones' gratitude is best expressed by his frank statement—: "I wouldn't have won without Henry's rifle." His presence in Houston was prompted by a desire to prove to himself that he could shoot prone. More experienced in positional shooting, his prone had become increasingly stronger until he found himself "King of the Hill." Somewhat incredulous that the Prone Championship had fallen to him, he needed further proof to convince himself that he is that good. After his performance at this tournament, I should think that any qualms would be dispelled.

Rounding out the Grand Agg., Benson scored 6381-452X for High Civilian. Next came Hollister with 6378-481X and Whittington, 6376-467X. Scarborough finished with 6373-450X, and Lynn Roberson, 6367-442X . . . Major Findley's 6337-363X was good for High Expert honors, with Earl Osborn, Bossier City, La., second with 6335-340X . . . Lindal F. O'Neal, Ft. Hood AMU, led the Sharpshooters—6320-333X, as Robert L. Powell, also of Ft. Hood, came next with 6311-318X . . . In the Marksman class, it was Gary Toon, Ft. Bliss, over Richard Kirsch of Ft. Worth—6277-287X to 6259-290X . . . Frederick Semelka, Jr., Ft. Hood, was Hi Unclassified—6268-283X.

Margie Follmar, of Houston, received the High Lady award—a 10-X shooting mat—for her 6287-289X.

The High Junior, with a 3148-140X for her Saturday-Sunday Aggregate, deserves special mention. 12-year-old Debbie Davis of Dallas is creating quite a sensation. A thoroughly delightful, unspoiled, young shooter, standing 4' 8" and weighing 70-pounds, she could possibly have the only 521-T Remington in the country which has earned an NRA Expert classification. The Sept. 22, 1963 issue of the **Dallas Times Herald Magazine** carried a two-page spread, with photos, featuring Debbie and her shooting family. With some years of junior



National Champion 1/Lt. Lones W. Wigger, Jr. USAR (right), winner of the Western Wildcats Tournament at Houston, Texas, and High Lady Margie Follmar.

shooting ahead of her, I predict that she is headed toward a national title. Already thinking seriously of a career, she has her sights set on a degree from Texas A&M in veterinary medicine . . . She was awarded a lovely plastic cartridge block for her week-end's shooting.

The International Shooting Fund trophy went to Wigger for his 798-56X aggregate of the two 100-yd. any sight matches. Caygle came in 9Xs behind. William Lee and Ruth McFadden led the Experts with their 794-44X and 792-40X scores.

Of the 15 National Records mentioned above, the only ones established in other than the Service or Reserve categories were the new Open and Civilian Records for 4-man team at 100-meters any sights. The Western Wildcat No. 4 Team of Hollister, Benson, Whittington, and Raymond Sargent posted a winning 1595-104X score to upset the 1592-101X record held for a number of years by the Brea (Calif.) Junior Rifle Club. Three team members scored 400 possibles, and we understand that Raymond was duly grateful that the others carried him. As his best scoring was done in the stat office, it would seem that he had a 4.0 alibi. Hollister remarked that, after all, Raymond was the smartest competitor on the line—he fired 40 shots and got his name in the Record Book . . . Hollister, Whittington, and Sargent all shot the Sargent square actions.

Just for comparison—Herb fired his Anschutz with the beautiful Hollister stock, the first two days, and his square action the last two. He dropped 11 points with each rifle, but had 3 more X's with the

square action, which might or might not be attributed to conditions.

Caygle and Madden's 797-50X accounted for a National Service Record at 100-meters any, and the 4-man USAF "Blue" Team of Caygle, Madden, Bonebrake, and Lewis, totaled 1588-98X for another Service Record. Captained by Col. Perkins of Lackland AFB, he also served as Official Referee. We might add that his services were appreciated in this capacity by competitors and sponsors alike. He made decisions quickly and fairly. The shooter was given the benefit of the doubt in all cases, which was a contributing factor to the success of the tournament.

From all indications, the four days of shooting was an enjoyable experience for all concerned. I've heard comments on the green, grassy range, freshly-painted buildings, and the several-foot rear extension of the firing line cover—and the delicious chocolate cake. Texans don't leave their guests "dangling" at the end of the day. There was even a football game between the Univ. of Houston and Ole Miss on Saturday night . . . The NRA was well represented at the Friday night dinner, with guests including Frank Daniel, J. H. Fauntleroy, Bob Joerg, and Marvin Driver . . . Marianne left her rifle scope in Michigan, but that was easily remedied. It was a bit more difficult for Al Sharpnack to pick the lock on her station wagon so that she could get to her gear Sunday morning . . . Saturday night's barbecue at the range was a pleasant occasion and well attended. . . A small turn-out has its compensations—one relay can be more relaxing . . . During his



These shooters established a new Open and Civilian National Record for 4-man team at 100-meters, any sights 1595-104x. Left to right are Raymond Sargent, Herb Hollister, George Whittington and Henry Benson.

brief stay, NRA Vice President Harlon Carter spent a day in the schools talking with the youth of Houston. I'm sure that he was an inspiration.

As in all Western Wildcats tournaments, competitors had their choice of awards. Bayou Rifles extended the usual selection of cash, merchandise certificates, and trophies, to include NRA silver.

I should like to compliment the Bayou Rifles Smallbore Division on their official bulletin. It is complete (listing names rather than merely competitor numbers), and is distinct and readable—which cannot be said for all bulletins which we've seen. Their program, too, was outstanding. Further, they achieved excellent coverage in **The Houston Press**, including the two photos on these pages.

It grieves me to report that one of Precision Shooting's staunchest supports—Oscar Strebler, of Altadena, Calif.—has passed on to a happier hunting ground. Although short in stature, he was long on enthusiasm for all forms of rifle shooting. An avid high power competitor, he had also enjoyed smallbore shooting and hunting through the years but, more recently had concentrated on benchrest. The practice range in his hilltop home was unique. Firing from the back porch (which overlooked a canyon), he shot through the dining area, through his bedroom, through a closet (sliding doors were installed on both sides of the closet), into a trap at the end of the attached garage which is located at the front of the house. Neighbors were accustomed to the sound, and there were no complaints... The victim of a heart attack, Oscar will be truly missed.

Richmond, Calif. was ablaze from the incendiary bombardment triggered by the connoisseurs of International-type shooting during the **California State International Championships** on October 26-27. Flanked by the USA MTU team from Ft. Benning, Georgia, and the USAF International Team from Lackland AFB, Texas, competition was lively among the approximately 45 competitors.

National International Free Rifle (300-meter) and English Match Aggregate Champion, M/Sgt. William E. Krilling, USA MTU, came through with a winning 1139 in the 3-positional Smallbore Aggregate. Firing 395 Prone, 379 Kneeling and 365 Standing, he was two points up on Capt.

John T. Bertva's 1137. Gordon Taras, who manipulated the tournament planning detail, ranked third with 1134. Trailing were Lt. Eugene Kolstad, Lt. Presley W. Kendall, and Capt. Verle F. Wright, Jr., all of USA MTU, whose respective scores were 1126, 1124, and 1121.

They are all talking about the double National Record achieved by Virginia Bailey in becoming the first lady to break 1100 in registered competition in this country. Under ISU rules, Virginia is still a junior and her 1101 entitles her to the Record for both Women and Junior categories. (The ISU limit for juniors, I understand, is 20)... Last year Jean Linton fired 1114, but it was a non-registered match and, therefore, could not be considered a Record.

M/Sgt. Edward E. Caygle, Jr., USAF, posted the high Prone score of 397, followed by Taras with 396, and Krilling with 395... Kneeling it was "Gene the Machine" Kolstad outranking Kendall, both with 386-7X, and T/Sgt. Allan H. Hannon, USAF, with 382... Krilling's 365 took the Standing. Bertva's 363 placed second, and third was Taras' 359.

In Free Rifle competition, half the Int'l course on the 300-meter target reduced for 200-yds., the "Old Pro," Verle Wright, turned in a 573 to lead the field over Bertva's 570, Taras' 565, Kendall's 564, Krilling's 563, and Kolstad's 558.

The USA MTU team produced a phenomenal prone score, which I would very much like to see recognized as a National Record for 4-man team in Int'l Big Bore. Their 797-36X is broken down as follows: Wright—200-9X, Kolstad—199-4X, Krilling 199-12X, Kendall—199-11X. Bill Krilling had such a fantastic group with one shot just a hair out that Chris Petersen "appropriated" it to shame the benchrest shooters who were on the range. Krilling's group was smaller than anything that they were getting off the bench. Chris has promised to forward the target to us, so we'll have it in print as soon as he sends it.

Topping the Kneeling scores were: Bertva—195, Kendall—191, Kolstad—190, and Krilling 190. Standing: Wright—186, Bertva—178, Taras—176, Krilling—174.

Bertva of the Air Force was winner of the combined aggregates, totaling 1707 to Krilling's 1702. Gordon Taras was pushing them hard with his 1699, ahead of Wright's

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Alfred W. Walter (President)  
1925 Raft Dr., Hanley Hills  
St. Louis 33, Missouri  
Area Code 314 PA6-2109

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Walt C. Siewert  
Box 749

Custer, South Dakota

## NORTHWEST REGION

Raymond Speer  
925-7th St.  
Lewiston, Idaho  
Area Code 208 SH3-6135

## SOUTHWEST REGION

John B. Sweany  
4498 Silverado Trail N.  
Calistoga, California 94515  
WH2-6633

## Secretary-Treasurer

Bernice E. McMullen  
607 West Line St.  
Minerva, Ohio 44657  
Area Code 216 868-6132

## NBRSA MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual annual dues \$5.00 (includes magazine subscription for membership term). Associate member (wife or husband, son or daughter under 18 years of age, of member in good standing—no magazine) \$2.50. Life membership, \$75.00. Annual club affiliation fee \$10.00.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

No doubt each member of our organization is very much interested in regard to what happens at the Annual Meeting of the directors and officers of the National Bench Rest Shooters Association. The (1963) meeting was held at Council Cup Range, Wapwallopen, Pennsylvania, on the evenings of August 28, 29, 30 and 31, 1963. These meetings were held after the shoots each evening, beginning at 7:30 P. M. and lasting well into the night. This was a great strain on each officer after a day's shoot. I feel that each director would like to visit among his fellow shooters instead of spending his evenings at meetings. I also feel that each director would rather attend the National Meet at least two days before it is held. By doing this, the meetings could be held during the day, beginning at 8:00 A. M. and closing at 4:30 P. M. in the evening. More work could be accomplished, as we would have much more time to do it. I recorded on tape the meetings we held in Pennsylvania. After re-running the tape over, I find that work acted on was run through too fast, and therefore was not justly attended to, as it should have been. This will only result in a considerable amount of correspondence and phone calls. Under the present situation the directors are expected, in four evenings, to complete the work for a year. This, I know you'll

agree, is impossible to do. I feel sure that the directors would not mind attending the shoot two days before the matches, and I would like to hear their feelings in regard to this.

I have authorized the release of the report of the minutes of the meeting. I feel each member should be informed of what went on, so that he will know that the requests he presented to his director were acted on.

In the past I have never seen where members were informed on the cost of holding National Matches. Talking to several members, I gathered they felt the clubs stood the whole cost of holding the National Shoots. You will find in this month's magazine the total cost to N. B. R. S. A. for the services of conducting these matches. I have often heard shooters say "What does the N. B. R. S. A. do with the money taken in from each match?" After reading this report, I feel your questions will be well answered.

Next month I will ask the members to send me the list of new members they have signed up during the year of 1963. I have announced in PRECISION SHOOTING during the year of 1963 that the member who submitted the most new members would be presented a check for \$25.00 from me. I am ready to pay off, and shall offer the same for the coming year of 1964.

Mr. Ed McNally for a number of years has checked the National Championship shoots in regard to disqualifications. This is a very touchy subject, I well know, as I was disqualified in the 1962 shoots at Tulsa, Oklahoma, because of one wild shot on the second to the last target of the fourth day of shooting. He has a plan which I am going to have PRECISION SHOOTING publish so all can be informed of his results. By studying the results of the 1963 National Championship shoot in Pennsylvania under the present rules and comparing it with his suggested system, you will see quite a different change in positions, plus several unjustly disqualified shooters reinstated due to his system. (Editor's note; The aforementioned will appear in a following issue.)

During the June publication of PRECISION SHOOTING in the coming year I will have printed a questionnaire in regard to all suggestions and ideas brought before us this year. They will be worded in such a way that they may be answered by "yes" or "no." By having each member voice his opinion on these items and submit them back to me before the National Meet, we can thereby know how each shooter feels in regard to the different items that may have come up.

I hope that the information in this month's PRECISION SHOOTING that has been released to each member has been of some benefit. If so, kindly drop a word of thanks to Mr. Phil Teachout so that he will know that all his efforts in placing these reports before you have been of importance to you.

Sincerely yours,  
Alfred W. Walter, President  
N. B. R. S. A., Inc.

## RIFLES AND COMPETITION

To the Editor of Precision Shooting:

Shooters at the tournaments I have attended this year are all asking why attendance has fallen off. Sometimes it is because tournaments in the same region are scheduled too close together in time. Sometimes tournaments are scheduled at the same time too close together in distance. Sometimes it is because shooters are unhappy about trends in competition.

Unless our secretary can tell us that more competitive targets were fired in 1963 than in earlier years, we are likely to believe, from the evidence of our eyes, that

(Continued on Page Eleven)

## CHARLES N. JENNINGS

Charles N. Jennings of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away August 30, 1963 after an illness of several months.

Mr. Jennings was one of the organizers of the National Bench Rest Shooters Association in March 1951 and was one of the charter directors of the organization. He served as Vice-President of the organization through 1951 and 1952 and was elected President in 1953 and served for one year.

He started out as a Smallbore and Varmint shooter, then became interested in bench rest shooting shortly after 1946. Most of the bench rests were single benches in and about Tulsa, and Mr. Jennings helped get these shooters together to form the Tulsa Bench Rest Rifle Club, for which he was President and Secretary at various times. He was instrumental in getting Mr. John Zink, Tulsa Industrialist, to let the Tulsa Club use his 10,000 acre ranch near Tulsa to hold bench rest matches.

Mr. Jennings was a very active promoter of bench rest shooting in the Mid-Continent Region during his terms as Director and aided in the organization of several clubs in the Region. He was an early advocate of a national shoulder-to-shoulder shoot to annually determine a national champion, and for holding such shoots in various parts of the country. He was a tough competitor and many times a winner in Mid-Continent competitions in the early 1950's. He dropped out of active participation in the sport after the mid-1950's but never entirely lost his interest in it.

Charles L. Neumann

## RULEBOOK EXCHANGE

If members who have copies of the recent issue of the NBRSA Rulebook (green cover) will return them to the NBRSA Secretary at 607 West Line Street, Minerva, Ohio 44657, as soon as the new books (grey cover) are printed she will send one for replacement to each person who has sent in a green cover (recent) book.

## 1964 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VARMINT AND SPORTER MATCHES

Gulf Coast Regional Director Henry W. Spencer announces that the 1964 Varmint and Sporther Class National Championships will be fired August 7, 8 and 9, 1964 on the West Texas Sportsman's Club range in Abilene, Texas.

The Sporther Class matches will be fired August 7th, Light Varmint Class August 8th and Heavy Varmint Class on August 9th.

The West Texas Club is in the process of constructing a completely new range which will have a twenty bench covered firing line. We will have more detailed information about this new range later.

The Texas Championship Matches will also be fired on this new West Texas Club range; the unrestricted class and heavy varmint class matches scheduled for May 2nd and 3rd, and sporther and light varmint class matches for June 27th and 28th. After these registered shoots, experienced and competent match operating personnel should be assured for the National Championship matches.

## UNRESTRICTED CLASS NATIONALS

We are advised that the Tulsa Bench Rest Rifle Club will probably be unable to announce firm dates for the Unrestricted Class National Championships until after the first of the new year. We'll publish those dates just as soon as possible after receiving them.

## Rifles and Competition

(Continued from Page Ten)

bench rest shooting is losing its attraction. If this is so maybe it is because, over the years, we are overlooking the reason for the founding of the N. B. R. S. A.

The 1950 Year Book of N. B. R. S. A. stated that an object of the Association was to promote rifle accuracy. The word "rifle" is a broad one and can mean any weapon having a spirally grooved bore through which projectiles may be discharged. The word can be applied to anything from a blow gun to a 16 inch naval gun. Traditionally, however, it has been used to denote a shoulder weapon for use in war or hunting or for target shooting.

The military rifle has usually had a stock of wood, usually extended for most of the length of the barrel, and often having a cover piece over the barrel to protect the soldier from burns after the rifle has become hot from rapid fire. The hunting rifle has sometimes had a full stock running the length of the barrel, as in the historic Kentucky rifle (so called) and in the modern Mannlicher-Schoenauer, but more often has had a short fore-end just long enough to provide a hand grip for the shooter. Some, like the early Maynards and the modern Armalite survival rifle, have no fore-end at all. The target rifle evolved into a heavy barreled weapon with a wide beavertail fore-end, and often with a thumb hole in the buttstock.

All these rifles had one thing in common. They had buttstocks. The buttstock was of a non-metallic substance, usually wood, and was designed to fit the shooter's shoulder.

So when Townsend Whelen used the phrase "rifle accuracy" it can safely be assumed that he referred to a weapon having a buttstock. Indeed, in 1949 and 1950 all of the rifles fired in the National Matches were traditional rifles having stocks showing the influence of the evolution of the beavertail target stock.

It would be natural to assume that a specialized form of shooting like the bench rest sport would lead to an evolution in stock design to better fit the weapon for its special purpose. Thus was developed the exaggerated flat beavertail fore-end and the so-called fan-tail which quickly evolved into a buttstock bottom surface parallel to the flat bottomed fore-end. The stock as thus evolved was well adapted to rest on sand bags without canting, and to recoil straight back with a minimum of guidance.

It was at this point that evolution gave way to revolution. Certain shooters of mechanical turn of mind, either confusing inherent accuracy with the demonstration of accuracy, or desiring to eliminate as much skill as possible from the bench rest sport, began to experiment with mechanical rests which coated with the rifle stock so that the rifle, when returned to "battery" after recoil would be aimed for the next shot without manual correction. Some of these devices were so accurately made that they would never be off aim when the guiding parts were adjusted to be parallel to the line of sight. Eventually these experimenters were successful in having the directors of N. B. R. S. A. create a special class where they could compete with their Unrestricted Rests.

At present these rests must be in two parts, a front rest and a rear rest, but pressure is mounting to permit a single unit rest to be used. Not to mince words, this will be a machine rest. The first step in this direction was taken at the Nationals this year, when a "rifle" with no buttstock whatever was permitted to compete with both front and rear rests in front of the trigger guard.

How far have we departed from the object of promoting rifle accuracy? What kind of a "rifle" has no buttstock? Only a piece of artillery. Is the improvement of artillery accuracy within the scope of N. B.

R. S. A.'s objects? The proponents of the mechanical rests even use the artillerists' language. Whence comes the expression "return to battery"?

If the bench rest sport is sick, it is largely because too many mistakes by too many boards of directors have been made as a reflection of emotional or illogical decisions. The remedy is not to complicate things further, but to undo some of the things which shouldn't have been done in the first place. For instance, in an earlier letter, I pointed out that in my opinion it was a serious error to permit unlimited power telescopes in the Sporter Class. To correct this it is now proposed to create a Hunting Rifle Class with limited power telescopes. If a Sporter isn't a Hunting Rifle, what is it? If a Hunting Rifle isn't used for sport, what is it used for?

The attendance at the National Matches held in the Eastern Region is steadily decreasing. Probably the cost of keeping up with the two-gun shooters is one of the reasons old shooters are dropping out faster than new ones are taking their place. This year there was a lot of griping about shooters using one caliber in calm air, and a heavier caliber in windy conditions. The Board of Directors wisely took no action. This sort of shooting may well carry the seeds of its own destruction. It is best to watch for a while and see how serious the threat becomes.

But before we take action of any sort, let us consider whether it fits in with the objects set forth by Townsend Whelen in the 1950 Year Book. Will it promote rifle accuracy and the sport of bench rest shooting? Don't overlook the word "sport." It may be the key to our difficulties.

Charles Kingsley

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL BENCH REST SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION, INC., HELD AT WALLY'S COTTAGE ON THE COUNCIL CUP RANGE, WAPWALLOOPEN, PENNSYLVANIA ON AUGUST 28, 29, 30 and 31, 1963

Wednesday evening, August 28, 1963—

7:00 P. M. —

Directors and officers present: Alfred Walter, President and Director Miss. Valley Region; Larry Engelbrecht, Vice-President and Director Mid-Continent Region; Henry Spencer, Director Gulf Coast Region; Raymond Speer, Director Northwest Region; Allen Hobbs, as proxy for John B. Sweany, Director Southwest Region; Dr. A. H. Garcelon, Deputy Director Eastern Region; George Kelby, Deputy Director Eastern Region; L. F. Carden, "Director Elect" Mid-Continent Region; Charles Kingsley, Chairman of Rules Writing Committee.

The meeting was called to order by President Walter, saying that these meetings would have on the agenda:

Reading of the 1962 minutes.

Report from the rules-writing committee, consisting of Charles Kingsley, Brunon Boroszewski and Paul Gottschall.

New business—wording of by-laws and discussion of light varmint class.

Location for 1964 National Championships (Varmint and Sporter, and Unrestricted).

Consider suggested rules changes.

New items from Directors.

Treasurer's report.

Election of officers for the coming year.

Minutes of 1962 meetings at Tulsa, Oklahoma, read and accepted as read.

Discussion held on the firing of two calibers in any match. Vote taken which ended in a tie. Charles Kingsley suggested that it be let ride for one year. George Kelby was of the opinion that it should be deferred for one year. Ray Speer made a motion to table action for one year and be ready to offer good discussion at the 1964 meetings. Henry Spencer seconded this motion. Passed by hand vote.



Edith Wenkenbach, Arlington, Virginia, 1963 Unrestricted Bench Rifle Champion of the Eastern Region, NBRSA.

Al Walter introduced discussion on forming a new class of hunting rifle. Henry Spencer proposed that Light Varmint and Sporter (classes) be combined and make room for the new hunting rifle class. "The light varmint and sporter class to be limited to 10 1/2 lbs.

No action was taken on Henry's proposal but Al Walter made a motion that each Director work his region for the coming year and get facts and opinions on this new class of hunting rifle and present them at the 1964 meetings at which time definite action would be taken.

Ray Speer reported that he had sent out 84 questionnaires and received 54 answers. These showed that his region wanted the new class.

"Bud" Carden reported that in his area of the country the hunting rifle shooters were not interested in NBRSA.

Al Walter brought up the subject of sleeved actions on varmint rifles, but aside from stating that the Mid-Continent region felt that if they met other rules of the varmint class they were OK.

Al Walter stated that he felt no new rule should become effective until January 1st of the year following passage at the Directors' meetings.

Charles Kingsley passed the opinion that the powers of future boards of directors should not be hindered.

Al Walter reported that he had received offers from Pete Brown of Sports Afield for a hunting rifle trophy, and from John I. Moore for three trophies, for heavy varmint, light varmint and sporter, to be rotating trophies. (Three shots from a cold barrel at National Championship Matches.)

Al Walter brought up for discussion the fact that the secretary had not been receiving mileage pay, same as directors. Also discussed paying her salary on a sliding scale. Stipulated that the secretary's salary should never go below \$75 per month, but as the membership increased,

(Continued on Page Twelve)

## PRECISION STAINLESS STEEL MATCH TARGET BARRELS

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Marstons Mills, Mass.

### Minutes of the Annual Meetings

(Continued from Page Eleven)

she should receive a \$10 increase for each hundred or major portion thereof increase in membership. Also that the old typewriter should be traded in on a new one. Larry Engelbrecht made a motion on these suggestions and with a second from George Kelby and a unanimous voice vote it was passed.

Al Walter gave a report on the attendance at the Varmint and Sporter Championships:—66 in heavy varmint class, 46 in light varmint class and 42 in sporter class. (Checked registration cards and out of 33 competitors who fired in both light varmint and sporter classes, 21 of them fired the same rifle.)

Ray Speer made a motion to maintain the light varmint class. Dr. Garcelon seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Charles Kingsley was of the opinion that it might be wise to consult clubs to see how many of them were willing to hold light varmint relays.

Al Walter made the directors a committee for polling their own areas on the hunting rifle class. Larry Engelbrecht volunteered to gather the information from all directors and give a report at next year's meetings.

Dr. Garcelon made motion that the secretary write John I. Moore a letter of thanks in regard to the acceptance and thanks for the generous offer of a trophy for the sporter class. Allen Hobbs seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Al Walter made motion to adjourn the first session of the Directors' meetings. Allen Hobbs seconded. Passed. Adjourned.

Thursday evening, August 29, 1963

All officers present from previous evening with addition of Brunon Boroszewski, Director of the Eastern region.

The long delinquent awarding of ties for the Varmint & Sporter championship matches held at San Angelo, Texas, in 1960 was brought up for discussion and after thorough discussion, B. Boroszewski was asked to contact former president Irven Mohnkern in regard to these ties.

Brunon (Boroszewski) was also asked to file an income tax report for NBRSA before the end of the year.

Discussion was brought up again on the subject of a competitor firing more than one rifle in a National Match course of fire. Bob Hart was asked to make a statement on this and he was of the opinion that feeling they needed two rifles might keep shooters out of the game due to added expense. When asked if the changing of rifles by shooters bothered his scoring detail, he reported that it did. George Kelby and Dr. Garcelon stated that it might hurt the game if allowed to go on. Brunon (Boroszewski) brought out the point that it might at some future date lead to classification of rifles.

Ray Speer at this point stated that he had changed his opinion from the time the vote was taken the evening before. Brunon made motion to rescind action of vote taken by mail. Henry Spencer seconded. Passed by voice vote. Ray Speer wished to defer action on this to 1964.

Discussion of location for 1964 and 1965 Varmint and Sporter Championship matches. J. B. Sweany had asked that the Southwest Region be considered for 1964, but as proxy for Mr. Sweany, Allen Hobbs reported that the Southwest Region would not be ready for championship matches in 1964. Henry Spencer entered bid for the 1964 Varmint and Sporter matches to be held at San Angelo, Texas. Ray Speer made motion to award the 1964 Nationals to San Angelo (Gulf Coast Region). Allen Hobbs seconded. Passed by voice vote.

George Kelby made motion for 1965 Varmint and Sporter Nationals be held in the East. Location and dates for matches are always set up at the Eastern Region winter planning meeting. Henry Spencer seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Unrestricted Nationals for 1964 to be held at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Ray Speer stated that Seattle might be interested in the unrestricted for 1965. Allen Hobbs made motion to allow Ray Speer time to consider Seattle. Ray Speer asked for option on 1965. Henry Spencer made motion to table decision on 1965. Allen Hobbs seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Brunon Boroszewski made motion that no shoot be sanctioned on the same dates as either National Championship matches. Henry Spencer seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Al Walter asked for motion to put hunting rifle through test until 1964 meetings. Al Walter proposed having two matches this coming year for hunting rifles, using any target, clubs to run them their own way and report results at 1964 meetings. Allen Hobbs seconded. Carried.

George Kelby suggested that the 50¢ fee for each registered competitor be made 50¢ per day. Larry Engelbrecht made motion that fee be made 50¢ per day per class. Henry Spencer seconded. Carried. Allen Hobbs made motion the above change be made effective January 1, 1964.

At this point "Crawf" Hollidge was

called in to give a report on the advertising brochure. At the 1962 winter planning meeting (Eastern Region) at Elmira, N. Y., "Crawf" was chosen to come up with some new ideas on advertising in the interest of NBRSA. "Crawf" together with Bill Purcell and John Collins, came up with a brochure pointing up the aims of NBRSA and telling how, if interested, they might join the NBRSA. Mr. Hollidge gave some prices quoted to him for making up these brochures. "Crawf" pointed out that they might be handled by some of the companies dealing in materials used by our members and mailed out with their merchandise, thus furthering the cause of NBRSA.

Several of the directors brought up points of discussion concerning the new rule book (green cover) recently published. The book was found to have several errors and misinterpretations in it and after some discussion it was decided to do further work on the rule book and have it reprinted. The committee on the revised rule book had a lengthy session after this meeting.

Friday evening, August 30, 1963

Same members present. More discussions of the rules were held with motions made and seconded. (The results of these actions will appear in the new rule book.)

Financial report was given by the secretary-treasurer. Accepted as read.

Meeting was adjourned until the following evening.

Saturday evening, August 31, 1963

Mr. Kingsley was not present at this meeting and as the directors were not prepared for full discussion on this subject (rule book #2), it was decided to handle it by mail.

George Kelby asked if it was legal to charge more than \$5.00 per day for Nationals with NMC fired in one day. Brunon Boroszewski made motion that one gun at both ranges in a National Championship match be allowed \$5.00 with \$2.50 for an additional gun. Henry Spencer seconded. Carried.

To introduce for discussion, Brunon Boroszewski made the following observation. To hold bench-rest shoots, clubs must prepare by getting benches, backers, etc., and new ideas on getting more attendance at their shoots might be very helpful to the clubs. Brunon presented the idea that it might be wise for NBRSA to develop a new informal target to be used for informal matches, which might attract new shooters. All directors saw the merit of the idea and Brunon was appointed to form a committee to work with him to come up with a target for this new type of competition, and work up a schedule for such matches. Along this line, George Kelby suggested that a target might have 5 or 10 bulls around the border and a regulation bench-rest target in the center. Brunon appointed George as part of a committee to work with him on this.

### Election of officers

Al Walter in remarks to directors stated that he hoped this would be the last time he would preside at the directors' meetings, saying he had been very happy to serve up until now and would do his best to serve the rest of his term in the same manner. He stated he had tried to follow the rules and help anyone he could, even though he had a very crowded schedule.

Brunon Boroszewski nominated Al Walter for President. Al Walter nominated Dr. Garcelon. At this point Ray Speer asked to be allowed to make a comment. Ray stated that he felt Al should reconsider, as it takes time to get acquainted with the duties of an office and that Al would be doing NBRSA a great justice by being re-elected. Henry Spencer added his full agreement to what Ray said. Larry Engelbrecht moved that the nominations be closed. Dr. Garcelon seconded. Carried. Written vote was taken and results were 5 to 3 for Al Walter. Brunon Boroszewski moved to make it unanimous. Dr. Garcelon seconded. Carried.

Dr. Garcelon nominated Bernice McMullen for Secretary-Treasurer. Henry Spencer seconded. George Kelby moved the nominations be closed. Seconded by Henry Spencer. Carried. Bernice McMullen elected.

Dr. Garcelon nominated Brunon Boroszewski for Vice President. Second from George Kelby. Carried and Brunon elected.

Al Walter requested that Phil be asked to put all phone numbers with the listing of all directors and officers in Precision Shooting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ray Speer. Second by George Kelby. Carried.

The 1963 annual directors' meetings came to a close at 10 o'clock Saturday evening, August 31, 1963.

A true report.

Bernice McMullen, Secretary  
A. W. Walter, President

## Bench Rest Match Reports

### RICHMOND, INDIANA

Eight shooters competed with unrestricted bench rifles at Richmond, Indiana, September 21 and 22. Conditions are reported to have been "rough" at this daytime shoot and the aggregates confirm that report. Deere, Pindell and Rucker shot .30 cal. rifles at 200 yards. The others shot .22 cal. at both ranges.

The high ranking aggregates for the National Match Course were:

	100 yd.	200 yd.	NMC
Cline Deere	.3254	.5238	.4246
Irv Potter	.4026	.5001	.4513
Ferris Pindell	.4000	.5659	.4829
L. S. Rucker		.5202	

Six shot an additional five 5-shot matches at 100 yards, with Deere making an aggregate of .3102, Omar Rinehart .3162 and Potter .3358.

### PLAINFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A considerably larger than usual entry of 22 participated in the final match of the season at Plainfield, N. H. on September 22nd, requiring three relays for the 10 bench range. Weather was quite cool with clear to cloudy sky. While the wind was not extreme in velocity, it did cause plenty of trouble, especially at 200 yards. Of the 20 who completed the full National Match Course of fire, 10 had over minute-of-angle aggregates at 200 yards, and only two under one-inch groups were fired (.910 and .940).

The high ranking aggregates were:

	100 yd.	200 yd.	NMC
Arnold Banker	.486	.696	.591
A. K. Glendening	.394	.882	.638
John Kohler	.580	.757	.668
Lawrence Amundsen	.574	.765	.669
W. J. Purcell	.548	.873	.710
Mary Hollidge	.398		

### WICHITA, KANSAS

Seventeen competed in the Wichita Bench Rest Rifle Club matches on October 5th, seven shooting heavy varmint rifle and ten the unrestricted bench rifles.

Top aggregates were:

	100 yd.	200 yd.	NMC
Nolan Jackson	.348	.3900	.3690
Marshall Johnson	.520	.4195	.4697
Tommy Wiggins	.578	.6100	.5940
Heavy Bench Rifle			
Walter Berger	.271	.4015	.3362
Henry Barton	.389	.3875	.3932
L. F. Carden	.356	.5220	.4390
N. C. Jackson		.4255	

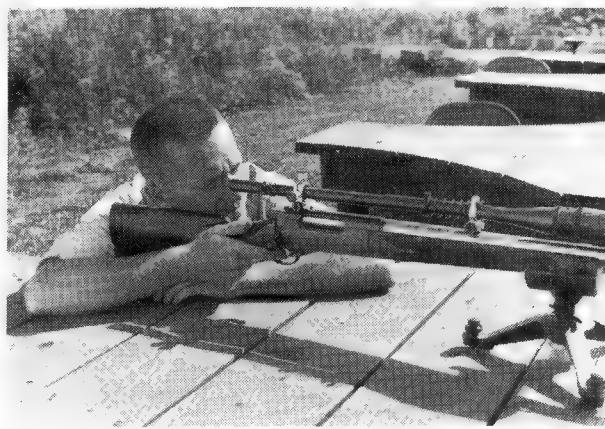
### SOUTHBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Thirteen competed in the Southboro Rod & Gun Club's final match of the season under near ideal conditions on sunny, summer-like October 13th. ("13" didn't seem to be any unlucky number in this case.)

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Says Ed Shilen. In the Sporter Class, 200-Yard Aggregate of .5118 MOA and Grand Aggregate of .5443 MOA. In the Light Varmint Class, 100-Yard Aggregate of .5104 MOA; 200-Yard Aggregate of .4998 MOA, and the Grand Aggregate of .5051 MOA in the Eastern Regional Shoot, Chippewa, Ohio, July, 1962.



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Shooting five 5-shot and five 10-shot matches at 100 yards, Royal Alvis from Staten Island, N. Y. finished way ahead of the field with his .4430 grand aggregate to win the gold medal. Crawford Hollidge won the silver medal with his .5325 aggregate, and Mary Hollidge the bronze medal with .5785.

Bob Stinehour made a repeat win of the Annual Trophy with a three-match aggregate average of .4706". Crawford Hollidge was runner-up with .4825, and Mary Hollidge third with .5041.



Allen Hobbs, El Cerrito, Calif., winner of Open and Limited unrestricted rifle and Heavy Varmint class aggregates at the Southwest Regional bench rest matches at Fresno, Calif., October 12th and 13th.

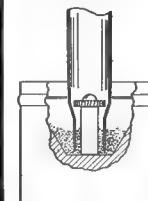
### SOUTHWEST REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Allen Hobbs, El Cerrito, Calif. came near being the all-around benchrest champion of the Southwest Region by his successes in the championship matches conducted by the Fresno Rifle & Pistol Club

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**Wilkins & Schultz, Inc.**  
Box 334, Barrington, Ill.

(California) on October 12 and 13.

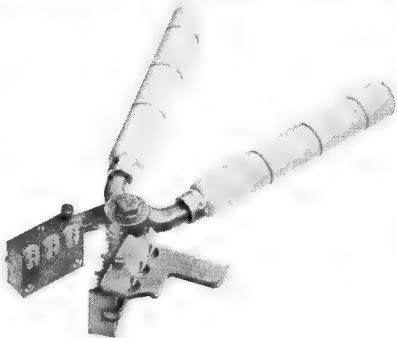
With unrestricted bench rifle, Hobbs won the Open Class competition with a .4699 NMC aggregate, shooting a .222 cal. Hart barreled 37 lb. gun. He won the Limited Class competition with a .8434 NMC Agg., shooting a 30 lb. .219 Don. Then he won the Heavy Varmint class (Continued on Page Fourteen)

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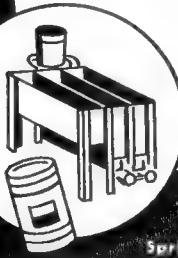
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Aggregate winners at Mill Creek Rifle Club bench rest match at Kansas City, October 19th. Photo by Gil Baltzer.

### Bench Rest Match Reports

(Continued from Page Thirteen)

championship with a .5093 MOA aggregate, shooting a 13 1/4 lb. .219 Don rifle. He did not enter the Light Varmint matches.

Following Hobbs in the Open Class matches was former Champ Chester Pluth, Lakeport, Calif., aggregating .4923 with his 98 lb. .222 rifle, and Felix Marinovich, Lodi, Calif., with .5018 MOA, shooting a .222 Mag. cal.

Gary Hayden, Burlingame, Calif., was runner-up in the Limited Class matches with a .8571 MOA aggregate, shooting a 28 lb. .308 cal. rifle. Thomas Squires, Sacramento, Calif., was third with 1.0696, shooting a 15 lb. .222 cal. rifle.

In Heavy Varmint Class competition, former Champ Ed Suchan from Oakland, Calif., was runner-up with .6146 MOA, and Thomas Squires was third with .6417. Henry Wright, Fresno Club Secretary, shot a 13 1/8 lb. 30/06 rifle to place 9th in a field of 16 with a .8666 agg.

Dale Strawn, Oroville, Calif., made a decisive win in Light Varmint class with an aggregate of .5742. Ed Suchan was second with .7042, and Kenneth Jones, Yreka, Calif., was third with .7053.

A total of 28 shooters participated in the matches.

### CANTON, OHIO

Ten shooters fired ten 5-shot matches at 100 yards at the Canton McKinley Rifle Club varmint rifle shoot on Oct. 5th. Paul Gottschall won the ten-match grand aggregate with a 500-35x score and broke the Club group record twice with .365" and .300" groups. Omar Rinehart was runner-up with a .498-36x aggregate and Anderson was third with 493-29x.

Only four showed up to shoot Sunday Oct. 6th and they shot five 5-shot matches. Lawrence Rucker won the aggregate with 249-19x and Harold Campau was second with 248-18x.

### KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Mill Creek Rifle Club of Kansas City held its final unrestricted bench rest match of the '63 season Saturday afternoon, October 19th, with 13 shooters. The wind started laying about match time and the conditions were good throughout with only a slight wind in match one and at 200 yards. The entire field of 13 shooters averaged .4054 MOA for the NMC aggregate.

The individual match winners were: 100 yds.—Walter Berger .195, Bob Stultz

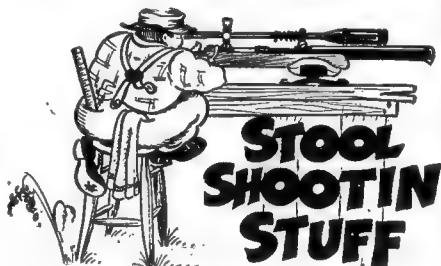
.230, John Mayer .260, Bud Carden .240 and Carden .160. 200 yds.—Dixon Herman .605, Carden .450, Larry Engelbrecht .650, Carden .505 and Berger .545.

The high ranking aggregates were:

100 yd. 200 yd. NMC

Bud Carden	.271	.301	.286
L. Engelbrecht	.321	.3435	.332
Walter Berger	.273	.3995	.336
N. C. Jackson	.272	.4125	.342
Bernie Geenens	.308	.383	.3455
Henry Barton	.317		
Dixon Herman			.401

The winning rifle combinations shot were: Carden, .222 in 28" Hart barrel on a Baucher sleeved M70 action with barrel bedding block, and load of 23 grs. Ball-C, 50 gr. B&A bullet and RWS primers. Engelbrecht, .222 in 28" Hart barrel on S&L action with barrel bedding block, load of 23.9 grs. Ball-C, 51.6 gr. B&A bullet and RWS primers. Berger, .222 in 28" Hart barrel on Baucher sleeved action, load of 21.8 grs. Ball-C, 52 gr. B&A bullet and RWS primer. Jackson, .222 in 26" Hart barrel on S&L action, load of 23.7 grs. Ball-C, 53 gr. B&A bullet and Remington primers. Geenens, .222 in 28" Hart barrel on Baucher sleeved action, load of 23 grs. Ball-C, 53 gr. Sierra HP bullet and RWS primers.



Dear Phil:

One of the things I enjoy about writing this column is the correspondence that I get from readers in distant places. Sometimes the letters come in to "Stuhlschuter" rather than my own name, but the postmaster sees that I get them just the same. The other day I got such a letter from a chap who said he couldn't pronounce my name which was rather a surprise to me and I guess when I wrote back and told him what it sounded like in simple spelling rather than ersatz German, he'll find it simple to pronounce from now on. Some of these folks ask a number of questions

about our game, the equipment we use and even for hunting loads for their hunting rifles. Such inquiries keep Merrie busy at the typewriter but we both enjoy what fan mail there is.

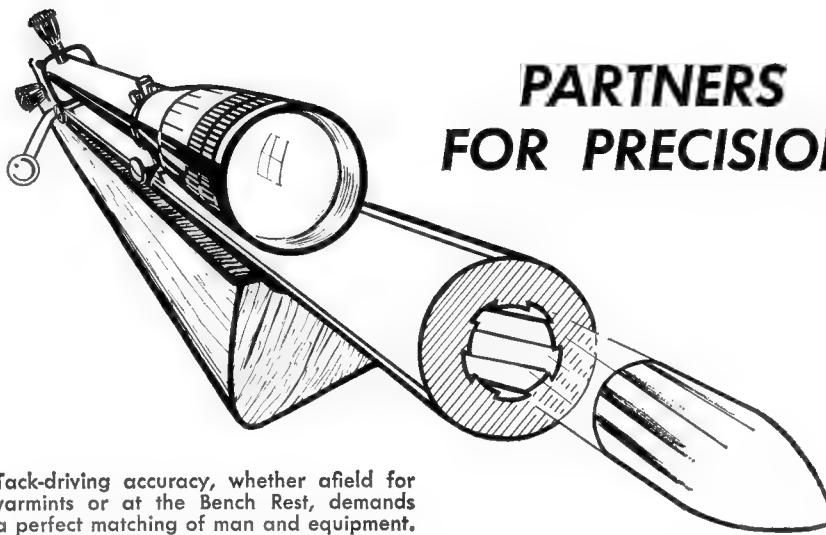
The simple answers sometimes turn out to be quite lengthy and complicated but I figure if there is anything we can do for the game wherever we live, it is a step in the right direction. Often, too, I get letters criticising the rules and some of the classifications. I feel the same way, too, frequently, but as I tell these fellows who write in, I don't make the rules and the place to address their correspondence is to the deputy director in their area.

I try to avoid giving answers to hunting loads because almost every hunting rifle is a law unto itself even to a greater extent than our target rifles. It is sometimes very interesting to see what a tiny variation in the load will cause a marked difference in the point of impact in a light rifle. About the best advice I can give anybody is to invest the few dollars and cents required to purchase one of Speer's #5 Hand Loading Manuals. I have said it before and I don't hesitate to repeat it again, Speer really did us a great service when they developed this manual, and of the many hundred different loads that I have made up and tested, I have found that the velocity figures match very closely my chronograph readings. Although the ballistic co-efficients for their bullets may differ slightly from those of other manufacturers, such differences are so minor that little difficulty will be encountered. Of course, a fellow should not compare a round nose with a pointed bullet co-efficient without taking into consideration the difference in shape.

For some years now, the shooting columnists and firearms manufacturer's publicity have recommended that before going on a hunting trip, the prospective shooter use up a box or so of ammunition in retargeting his rifle. I thoroughly agree with this and I have assisted many people in such an effort. There is one place, though, that I feel is entitled to a word of caution. There are very, very few rifles that shoot the same place after they become thoroughly heated up. It is a bad mistake to settle down into a good shooting position and keep adjusting your scope to try to make your bullets print at the desired point in relation to point of aim. If you must fire more than a half dozen shots in such a venture, make sure that before you consider your rifle targeted exactly right, you let it cool thoroughly and take at least two shots with the barrel as nearly like the condition you will have in shooting at game. Another person cannot adjust your rifle to its maximum accuracy if he uses iron sights unless his eyes are nearly identical to yours. A better job can be done with the telescope but don't forget that the way a rifle is held makes a lot of difference to the point of impact. Two people can see through a telescope pretty much alike but it is that difference in the way the rifle was held that might make a difference in getting game or losing it at a long shot where the maximum accuracy is called for.

There are some states that require the use of a shotgun for deer hunting and my own state of Massachusetts is one of them. The use of slugs in a shotgun can be a very effective weapon but the trajectory is by no means flat and I find few local hunters who are taking into consideration this trajectory feature. Several years ago I ran quite an extensive test on some of the special imported slug type cartridges that were supposed to be a great deal more accurate than those from the manufacturers in this country. They may be in some guns but in mine and in the tests which I made, this was not the case. In each gun that I tried, the domestic shells outperformed the foreign ones in all gauges. A slug from a shotgun

(Continued on Page Sixteen)



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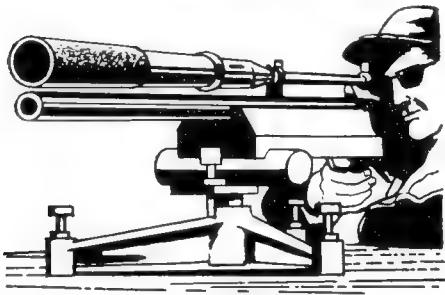
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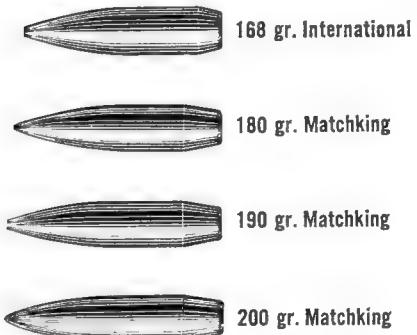
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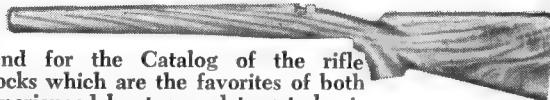
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### Stool Shootin' Stuff

(Continued from Page Fifteen)

is certainly a pretty potent projectile at shorter ranges and I notice that in the thick woods, they are being carried even in the states that permit the use of the rifled bore. In late years, we don't have much trouble with cardboard shells softening up from moisture but I have known of cases where the shell parted in the middle from a wet condition and although modern slugs will pass through any condition of choke, a combination of slug and forward part of the shell is not good medicine for a tightly choked gun or one in which some of the choke gadgets are adjusted too tightly.

Well, Phil, I see by your last note that you are going to get in a little deer shooting, too, or should we say a little deer camping. I wish you good luck but I am always aware that a deer trip can turn out to be just a camping trip.

I speak from experience because as you know when I wrote the last column, I was about to start out for a hunt in Nova Scotia. I joined friends in another car on the Blue Nose ferry run by Canadian National which goes from Bar Harbor, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. It is a fine new boat designed especially to carry vehicles and passengers on a six hour trip that saves often as much as five hundred miles travelling. On the dock, the long ramps can be electrically controlled to match the loading ports, regardless of tides and the drivers of the big trailer trucks maneuver themselves into the innards of the ferry with more skill and confidence than the average driver of the passenger vehicles. I never cease to get a kick out of the skill of these drivers as they jack their vehicles back and forth in tight spaces and on this trip, I saw a trick done that I have never seen before. The trailer in front of me was so long that it could not make the abrupt left turn without the use of a simple little outside aid. This seemed to be a bucket of soapy water which the deckhand threw on the smooth steel plates in front of the rear wheel and like magic, the trailer shifted two or three feet sideways and went out the debarking port almost as quickly as the time taken to write this. I don't know what part the driver played but the mission was certainly neatly and quickly accomplished.

My hunter companions and I enjoyed a beautiful trip on a clear bluebird day and the water was as mild as the lakes outside my windows on Cape Cod. We debarked in the early afternoon and had plenty of daylight to drive up the south and eastern coast to a short distance beyond Liverpool where we turned inland to a campsite on the Medway river. Fortunately this river has not yet been spoiled as has the Mersey, and it is still a famous place for salmon. The bluebird weather prevailed for the five days that I was in camp and the woods were dry and noisy. Fortunately the drought was not as bad as the Maine and New Brunswick area but it wasn't good hunting and I didn't take the safety off my rifle. The morning before I had to leave the others was spent in the middle of a very gamey country and I wished I had gone there first and also that I had not been scheduled for the returning ferry on the following morning.

To reach that gamey area I had tested my new jeep type vehicle over a course that only a woods bulldozer had negotiated. This path would eventually become a road for taking out some of the lumber which

was cut last winter and will be cut during this winter. At this stage, however, the road was not very sophisticated and I crawled in for a five mile stretch. If anybody had told me twenty years ago when I was flying over Japanese air spaces and making things miserable for them and in turn dodging their bombs, that I would be using and preferring a Japanese vehicle in the midst of Nova Scotia, I would have been prone to give them an argument. It is a good example of how fast the world changes and I am impressed more every day with the quality and features of my little Nissan Hard-top Patrol car. It crawled through impossible seeming places at one half mile an hour and cruised without pushing over the Maine turnpike's one hundred miles at just under sixty five miles an hour. Everybody that saw it was greatly impressed with it and believe me it was subjected to some pretty close scrutiny. I have already started to modify it considerably to facilitate the carrying of guns and the making of a hunting vehicle and before this season is over, I expect to be able to say that it is an off the highway vehicle of tip top design and construction.

Japan is also in my mind at this time because of a letter I just received from Charlie Pool who is at about the time that I am writing this probably getting considerable enjoyment from a trip to Tokyo. He and Mrs. Pool boarded the S. S. President Cleveland for Honolulu and Yokohama and when he wrote me he was enroute to Hong Kong and Tokyo. He is having a grand time and is due home in the middle of November. I have been an enthusiastic booster of his little hand loading tool for many years now and before he left, he modified and brought up to date one of mine which was made when he first started producing them.

The somewhat larger diameter head plus the hardening seems to be a definite advantage and the new type collet for holding the primer ejection pin is an improvement. The thumb screw fitting is a decided improvement when changing to different calibers. Charlie keeps putting a lot of thought into making these little tools and we who use them are very enthusiastic about their quality.

I received another nice letter this week from a benchrest shooter who is known to many of you fellows, and his enthusiasm is well known in the states as well as Anchorage, Alaska. J. Scott Donaldson keeps track of every step of the benchrest game as do many others through the columns of this magazine. He has maintained his interest in accuracy shooting and only regrets that he can't attend our shoots or perhaps, it would be better for me to say that he has not yet been able to get to one of our matches. You will perhaps recall that when Joe Stearn on one of his business trips went through Alaska and reported on a very pleasant visit with Mr. Donaldson.

The bigger benchrest shoots generally send in reports to the magazine and by word of mouth because of the larger attendance, the winners are known, as well as those who do exceptionally well but I wish the readers of this column who can shoot at their local ranges and are enthusiastic about their sport could realize that almost every year, a good sized group of fellows forge to the front who have never been there before. For instance, at the recent shoot at Southboro, Royal Alvis gave us a good trimming and walked off with the gold

medal. This was a good example of stick-to-itiveness. I have seen him come to match after match at which he placed down on the list but each time he went home, he had gathered elements of information which made it possible for him to evaluate the mistakes he was making and eliminate one error or another. At Southboro, Paul Pickering was in a similar category and had it not been for only one miserable maverick shot, he, too, would have been among the top shooters.

At Plainfield, New Hampshire, and at the Wigwam Shoot which Judson Darrow runs in Connecticut, Arnold Bunker did some mighty fine shooting and I can remember when he, too, was going through growing pains. I noticed on that Wigwam list George Stannard from Vermont who is almost this season new to benchrest shooting accounted very nicely for himself. So you see, it pays to keep trying or if you are new at the game, it pays to get into actual competition.

Incidentally, the Wigwam Shoot is a very interesting one because they shoot fifty shots for score, using the A17 target at 100 yards. One would think that a bunch of benchrest shooters could clobber regularly the silhouette of a fly or smack the shots into the ten ring of the A17 target at 100 yards. To date, nobody has made a perfect score on the latter target and Frank Tirrell has done the best with his 98 out of a possible 100.

I look for these small matches to grow in interest and importance and I think the reason will be because the sponsors present features which are novel and of interest to the shooters.

Good shooting to you, Phil—I'll be in Maine when the season opens on November 1st. Between now and then, I am keeping my fingers crossed because as you know, the woods have been closed in almost all of New England due to lack of rain. Although the water levels are down on our ponds on Cape Cod a few inches lower than normal, we have had very moist nights due to the heavy dew. As this does not burn off until late in the morning, it has kept our grass areas fresh and green but the trees have lost their foliage earlier than usual and I notice a few brown spots among the pine needles.

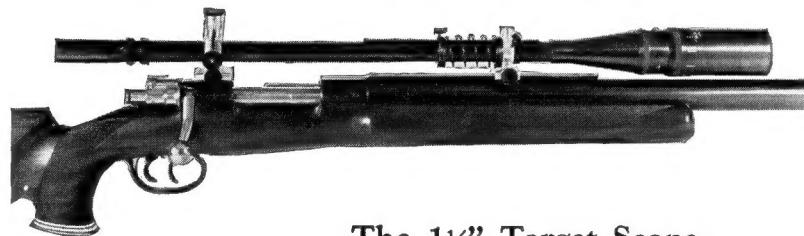
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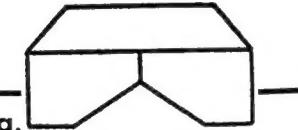
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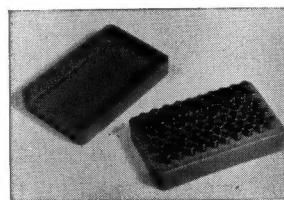
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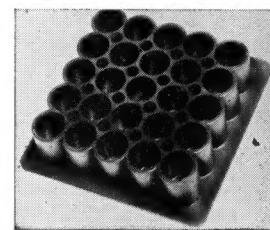
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## Random Shots

(Continued from Page Nine)

olver Club range on October 5th. Bearing down in the 2-match metallic aggregate with a 799-52X, this willowy young blonde served notice that shooting isn't strictly a man's sport. Runner-up was Doug Spencer aggregating 798-54X, and James V. Grizzell, III, came in third scoring 795-56X. The remaining Master Class award went to Tom Whitaker's 792-41X.

In the Expert Class Richard Hansen's 791-52X led Paul Jessup's 790-39X and Mike Lawer's 789-36X.

Patti Grizzell won High Girl honors with 789-32X. This 12-year-old is a rising shooting star.

Among the Mavericks-whom you may recall that we introduced a year ago as a club for those graduated from junior ranks—the fairer sex was still the stronger as Karen Ostergard shot 795-36X to defeat Mike Walker (a new father) who scored 792-43X, over Tom Shanks' 790-43X.

Only two possibles materialized as Jimmy Grizzell's 400-30X took the 50-yd. match and Sharon Stagers wrapped up the 100-yd. with 400-22X. At 50-yds., runners-up were Doug Spencer with 399-35X and Sharon 399-30X. Doug Spencer placed second at 100-yds.—399-19X, and Jimmy Grizzell followed with 395-26X for third Master, although Expert Richard Hansen posted 396-22X.

Maverick winners were: 50-yds.—Ron Hoover—399-22X, Bill Evans—398-24X, Mike Walker—398-21X. 100-yds.—Karen Ostergard—397-18X, Tom Shanks—396-22X, Mike Walker—394-22X.

In the 2-man team Dewar metallic, the Camp Pendleton team of Kathy LaMonte and John Fraser led with 780-27X. San Gabriel Valley Jr. Rifle Club claimed 1st Master as Susan Meek and Doug Spencer came through with 779-25X.

This junior league is a most enthusiastic group with dedicated instructors among the numerous affiliated clubs. Don served as NRA Official Referee, so I have first-hand information that John Coleson, Executive Officer, Howard and Hilda Coleman as Chief Ranger Officer and Chief Statistical Officer conducted the tournament in an

irreproachable manner. I should like to commend the competitors, themselves, for their voluntary efforts in cleaning up the range at the conclusion of firing.

\*\*\*

The curtain fell on Pennsylvania's outdoor season as the **Wellsboro Rifle Club** held its Open Masters Tournament on the last Sunday in September. The autumn foliage surrounding this mounting range was at its peak, which was conducive to a wonderful outing for the shooters and their families.

Winner was Loren Samsel with a 2396-187X, a very fine score for the conditions. His son, Loren, Jr., pushed hard and his 2391-186X finished second, but couldn't quite catch Loren, Sr. The Wellsboro Club is going to make this shoot an annual affair with a special prize to anyone who breaks Samsel's score by 1 point or 2 X's.

This is how the scores ran: 50-yds. iron—**Loren Samsel**, Dallas, Pa.—400-35X; Frank Boyd, Dover, N. J.—400-28X; Loren Samsel, Jr., Somerset, Pa.,—399-30X . . . 50-meters iron—**Samsel, Sr.**—400-31X, Frank Boyd—399-27X, Samsel, Jr.—398-31X . . . 100 yds. iron—**Harold Berkey**, Sipesville, Pa.—399-20X, Samsel, Sr.—396-19X, Samsel, Jr.—395-21X . . . **Metallic Aggregate**—**Samsel, Sr.**—1196-85X, Samsel, Jr.—1192-82X, Berkey—1192-69X. . . 50-yds. any—**Samsel, Jr.**—400-38X, Berkey—400-37X, Charlie Whipple, Somerset, Pa.—400-36X . . . 100-yd. any—**Samsel, Jr.**—400-31X, Whipple—400-31X, Samsel, Sr.—400-29X . . . Any Sight Agg.—**Samsel, Sr.**—1200-102X, Whipple—1200-101X, Samsel, Jr.—1199-104X . . . Berkey's 3rd place score in the Grand Agg. was 2389-172X.

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Those shooters who no longer thrill at the prospect of adding more trophies and medals to their collection—stored away in the rafters of the garage or the basement after all available display space in their homes is utilized—have expressed great interest in the "Stidworthy Awards System." George's brainchild was first tried at the 1962 Western Wildcats 6400-point tournament, where winners received their choice of cash, merchandise, or trophies. The one drawback was that it required too much figuring and computing in the office. Before the 1963 Wildcats matches, George devised a chart which covers practically all combinations of Masters and other classes, requiring about 5 minutes for figuring each match. Many shooters like the opportunity to convert their winnings into items of shooting equipment, ammo, or certificates cashable at motels, gas stations, and restaurants en route to the next tournament.

The Stidworthys have graciously offered to make a copy of their chart available to any tournament sponsor interested in trying their system. Address: Box 1363, Prescott, Arizona. (One competitor ordered a sterling silver pitcher for his trophy award. Your wives should be more receptive to your shooting, with gifts of this type.)

If sponsors seriously want to increase the number of entries at their tournaments, they will give consideration to providing competitors with the type of awards which they prefer. The better Masters are almost unanimous in their desire to shoot for something besides trophies, which would also enable them to attend more tournaments. Discussion on this subject is second only to the furor occasioned by Rule 9.14.

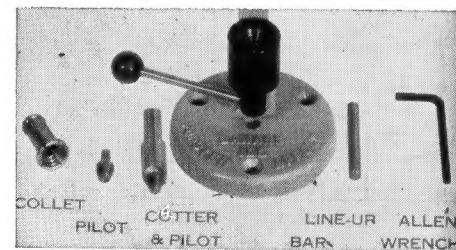
At an early date we shall print a chart computed by Ed Lane, using the Stidworthy system as a model, but providing for a greater number of shooters to receive awards.

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**LATE FLASH!!!** The 153 competitors who converged on the Los Angeles Rifle and Revolver Club on Nov. 2-3 failed to impede George Stidworthy's ascent to the Pacific States Fall Round-Up crown as his 3196-237X defeated Vic Auer's 3195-251X. Complete story next month.

# NEW

Forster-Appelt Power Case Trimmer

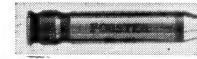


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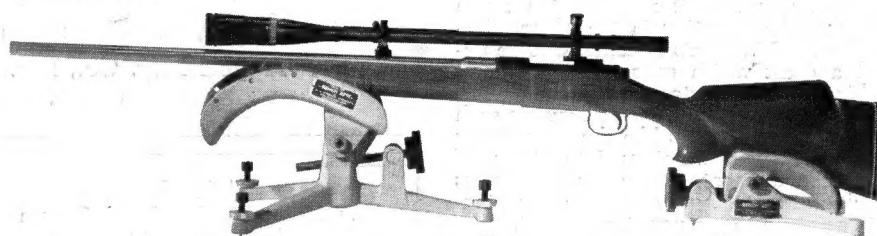
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2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Blank 1/16" Maple—1/28" Walnut  
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